

*PROCLAMATION BY MARIA  
LOUISA.*

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for there was so little decision as to the course to be adopted by the Empress that it was at first proposed to conduct her to Orleans, then to Tours, and she went finally to Blois. The uncertainty which prevailed respecting the destiny of Maria Louisa is proved by a document which I have in my possession, and of which there cannot be many copies in existence. It is a circular addressed to the prefects by M. de Montalivet, the Minister of the Interior, who accompanied the Empress. In it a blank is left for the seat of the Government, to which the prefects are desired to send their communications.. In the copy I possess the blank is filled up with the word " Blois " in manuscript.

As soon as Maria Louisa was made acquainted with the events that had taken place around Paris she sent for the Due de Cadore,<sup>1</sup> and gave him a letter addressed to the Emperor of Austria, saying, « Take this to my father, who must be at Dijon. I rely on you for defending the interests of France, those of the Emperor, and above all those of my son." Certainly Maria Louisa's confidence could not be better placed, and those great interests would have been defended by the Due de Cadore *si defendi possent*.

After the departure of the Due de Cadore Maria Louisa published the following proclamation, addressed to the French people : —

BY THE EMPRESS REGENT.

The events of the war have placed the capital in the power of foreigners. The Emperor has marched to defend it at the head of his armies, so often victorious. They are face to face with the enemy before the walls of Paris. From the residence which I have chosen, and from the Ministers of the Emperor, will emanate the only orders which you can acknowledge. Every town in the power of foreigners ceases to be free, and every order which may proceed from them is the language of the enemy, or that which it suits his hostile views to propagate. You will be faithful to

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<sup>1</sup> Jean Nompere de Champagny, Due de Cadore. One of the most worthy of Napoleon's Ministers. Minister of the Interior from 1804 to August, 1807, then Minister of Foreign Affairs to April, 1811, then honorably shelved as Intendant General de la Couronne, and in 1814 appointed Secretary of the Regency.